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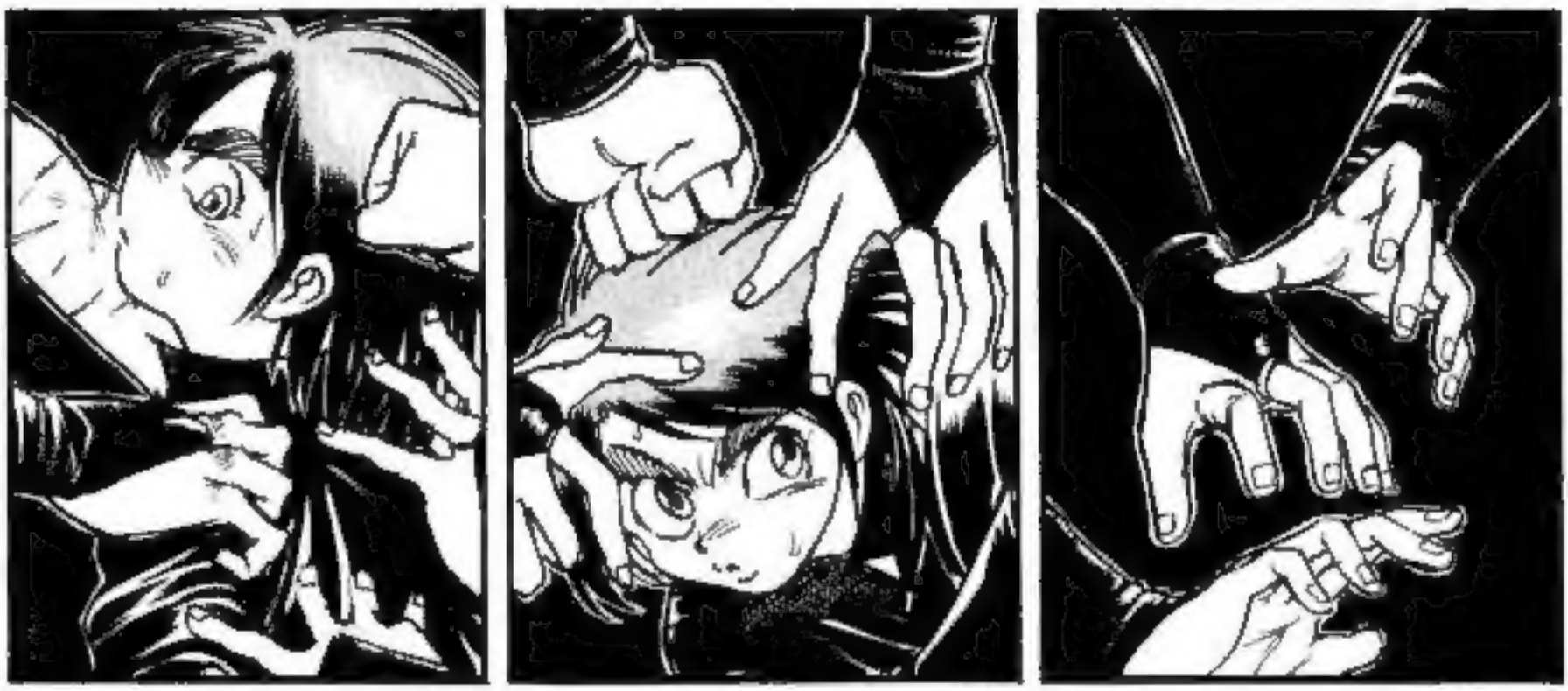


ACT 48 - The one who has the Memories of the Ancient

PRESENT TIME, KUROGA VILLAGE. CHIEF'S RESIDENCE.

THIS WAY!

HOLD ON!

I WON'T LET YOU CATCH ME!

I DIDN'T UNDERGO THE DOWNLOAD OF MY FATHER'S MEMORIES!

2

BUT THIS KID BEHAVES DIFFERENTLY BY STOOPING TO BE ABLE TO ESCAPE MORE EASILY AGAIN AND AGAIN...

AND EVEN...

GENERALLY SPEAKING, WHEN AN ADULT CATCHES A CHILD, HE TENDS TO TARGET THE NECK OR ARMS... BECAUSE HE CAN USE THEIR STRENGTH TO WIN.

EVERY TIME THEY MOVE THEIR ARMS TO CATCH HIM, HE GOES IN THE OPPOSITE DIRECTION!

THIS KID HAD CALCU-LATED EVERY-THING!

BUT IF HE MOVES INWARD, THE OPPO-NENT'S BODY CAN NOT TURN AND CATCH HIM.

IF A PERSON MOVES TOWARDS THE OUTSIDE OF THE OPPONENT'S BODY, THEY GET CAUGHT.

SO HE REALLY IS...!

WHAT ORDINARY KID COULD CALCULATE LIKE THIS IN SUCH MOMENTS?!

HEY! HOLD ON!

※U字形の鉄製の底部に木製の長い柄をつけた武器。

MAYBE I SHOULD WAIT UNTIL THE NIGHT AND HIDE IN THE MEANTIME...

PRE-PARE THE SASU-MATA!

HI!! HI!!

OVER THERE!

QC/N* SUSUMATA IS A SPEAR FORK USED BY THE SAMURAI CLASS AND THEIR RETAINERS IN FEUDAL JAPAN.

IT'S NOT GOOD... IF I STAY BEHIND THE FENCE, THEY'LL SEE ME.

HUFF HUFF HUFF

I'LL SEARCH OVER HERE.

!

HHH

DO!

DID YOU FIND HIM?!

HOW ABOUT HERE?

I'M... SAVED.

HUFF

HUFF

THEN, LET'S SEARCH HERE.

I GUESS NOT.

...

IS THIS THE ROOM WHERE THEY BUILD THE PUPPETS?

THIS PLACE...

MASARU, THE SAIGA HAVE A LONG TRADITION WITH THESE,

GRAND-PA...

I'M GOING TO FIND MY FATHER TO PROVE GRANDPA THAT HE'S NOT INSIDE ME!

BUT I WON'T LOSE!

!

BUT WHAT WAS THAT VISION BEFORE...

I'VE NEVER SEEN SUCH A THING.

NO WAY... COULD IT BE...

ARLEQUIN?

THIS ISN'T SHI-ROGANE'S ARLEQUIN!

NO... IT ISN'T...

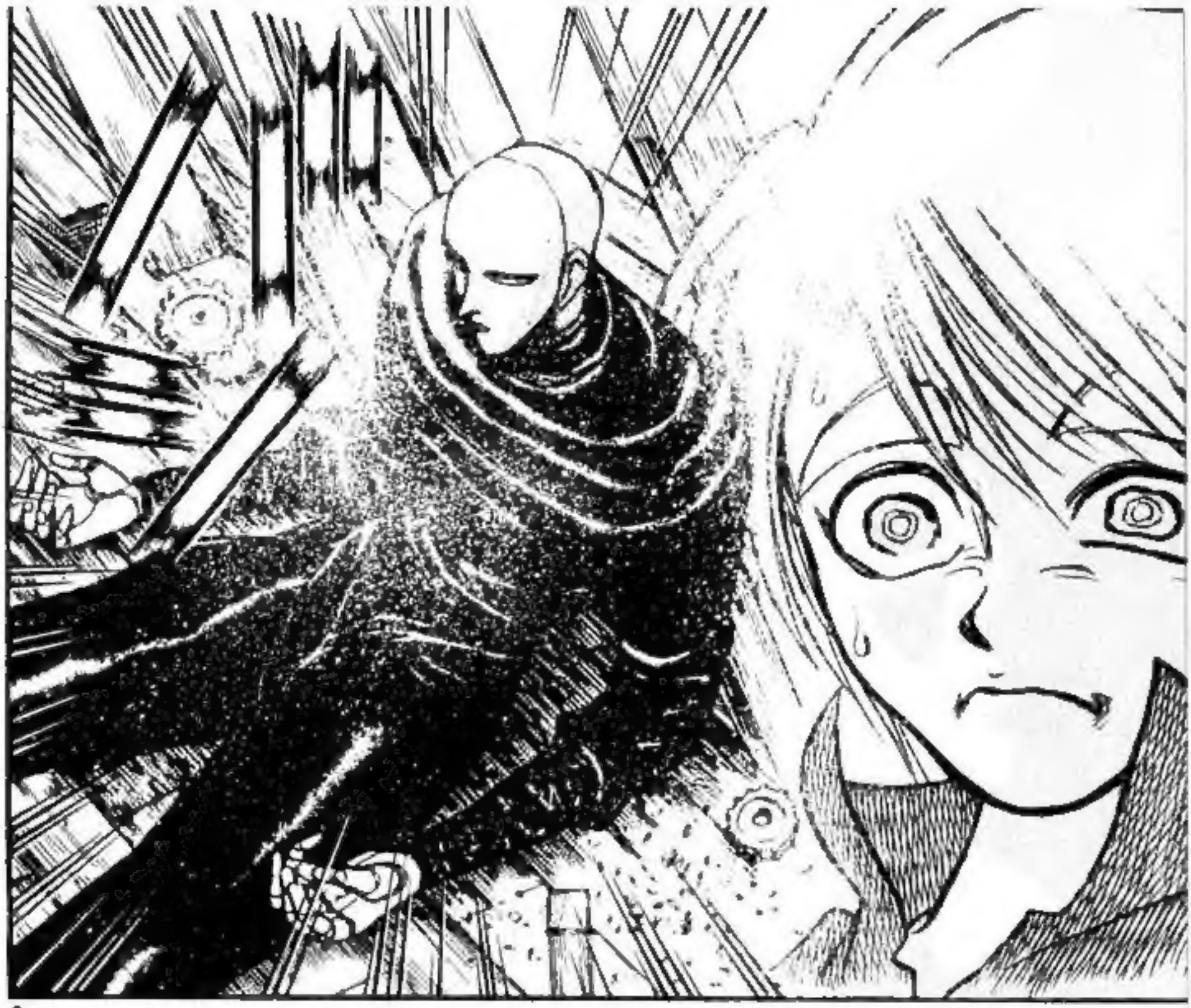
7

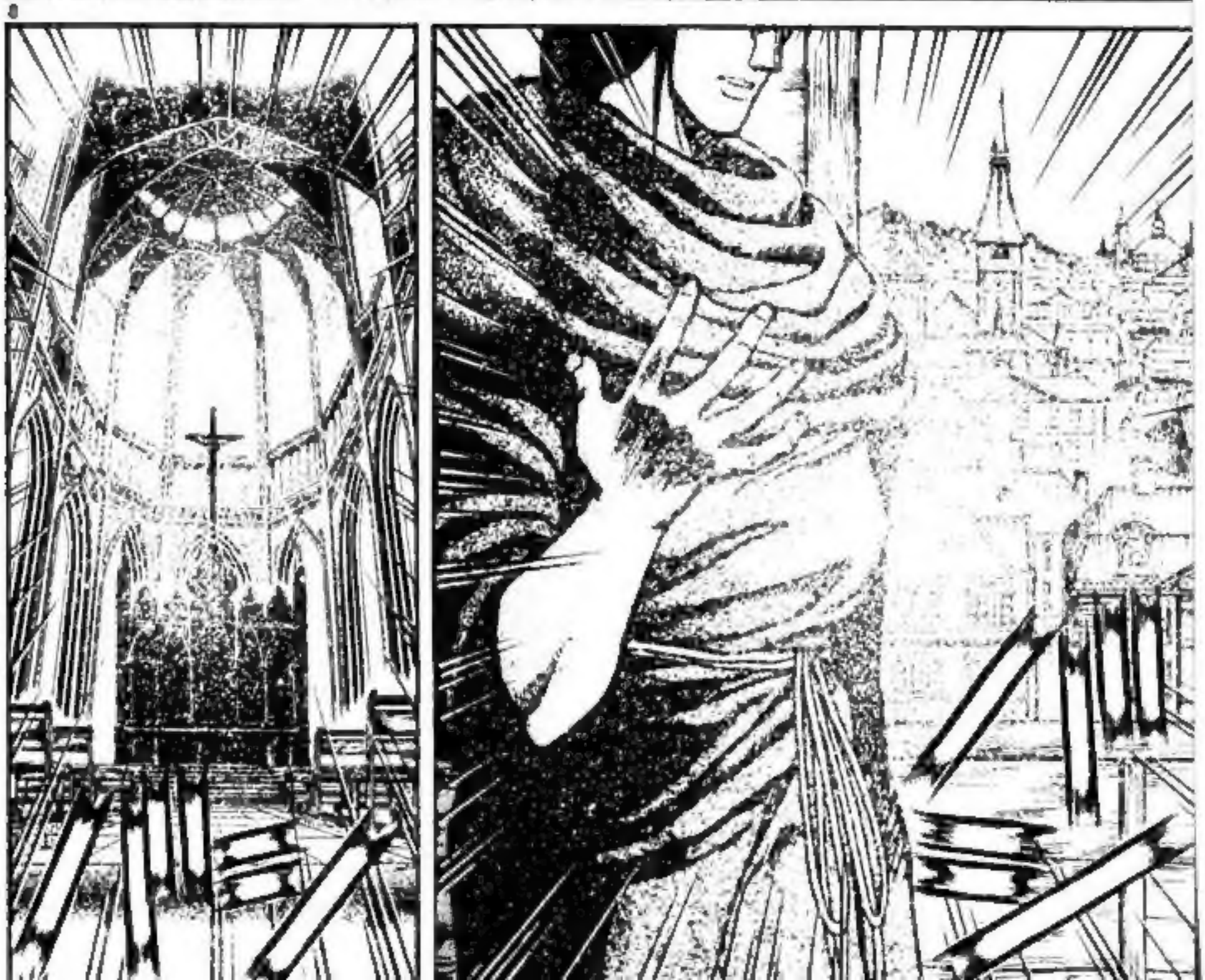
.....

OH, IT'S...

THERE WAS ONE IN GRANDPA'S MEMORIES, BUT...

BUT I'VE SEEN THIS SOMEWHERE BEFORE...





!!

WHAT WAS THAT...

...JUST NOW?

WHAT'S GOING ON, DEAN? YOU DON'T LOOK WELL...

WHAT'S GOING ON WITH ME...?

WHAT IS THIS...

STOP

USED?
DID YOU REMEMBER SOMETHING BY LOOKING AT THE ARLEQUIN FOR PRACTICE?

GUY...

WE CREATED A COPY OF ARLE-QUIN FOR US TO PRACTICE WITH.

ARLEQUIN IS THE PUPPET THAT THE ONE WHO MADE US "SHIROGANE", BAI-YIN, LEFT US.

MAMAN CAME TO JAPAN WITH THE ORIGINAL ARLEQUIN.

BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT. .

ALL THE SHI-ROGANES USE IT TO LEARN THE BASICS OF PUPPETRY.

MYSELF INCLUDED.

AHH!

DO YOU HAVE ANYTHING ELSE TO SAY?

AH...

I FEEL SO ASHAMED, MASTER SADA-YOSHI.

G-GRIF-FON!

BEFORE I TURN YOU LIKE THIS!

GRIFFON!

OUCH...

EVEN IF... I HAD TO USE MYSELF AS A BAIT... AS LONG AS I WAS USEFUL TO YOU...

I'M... GLAD...

WELL, IT'S TIME TO DIE, DEAN!

ALL WILL BE FINE AFTER A PUT A SCALPEL IN YOUR NECK AND CUT YOUR ARTERY.

AND AFTER CUTTING THROUGH YOUR RIBS, I'LL STAB YOUR HEART AND DISPOSE OF YOU.

YOU WON'T HAVE TO THINK ABOUT HOW MUCH BLOOD WILL BE SPILLED.

HE'S SERIOUS! GUY IS REALLY GOING TO KILL ME!

THAT'S RIGHT, IT WAS SADA-YOSHI WHO SPREAD ZONA-PHA SYNDROME TO US!

GUY!

WE WON'T LET YOU DO ALL THIS WORK BY YOURSELF.

AH...

SHHHH

OH...

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS FOR 90 YEARS.

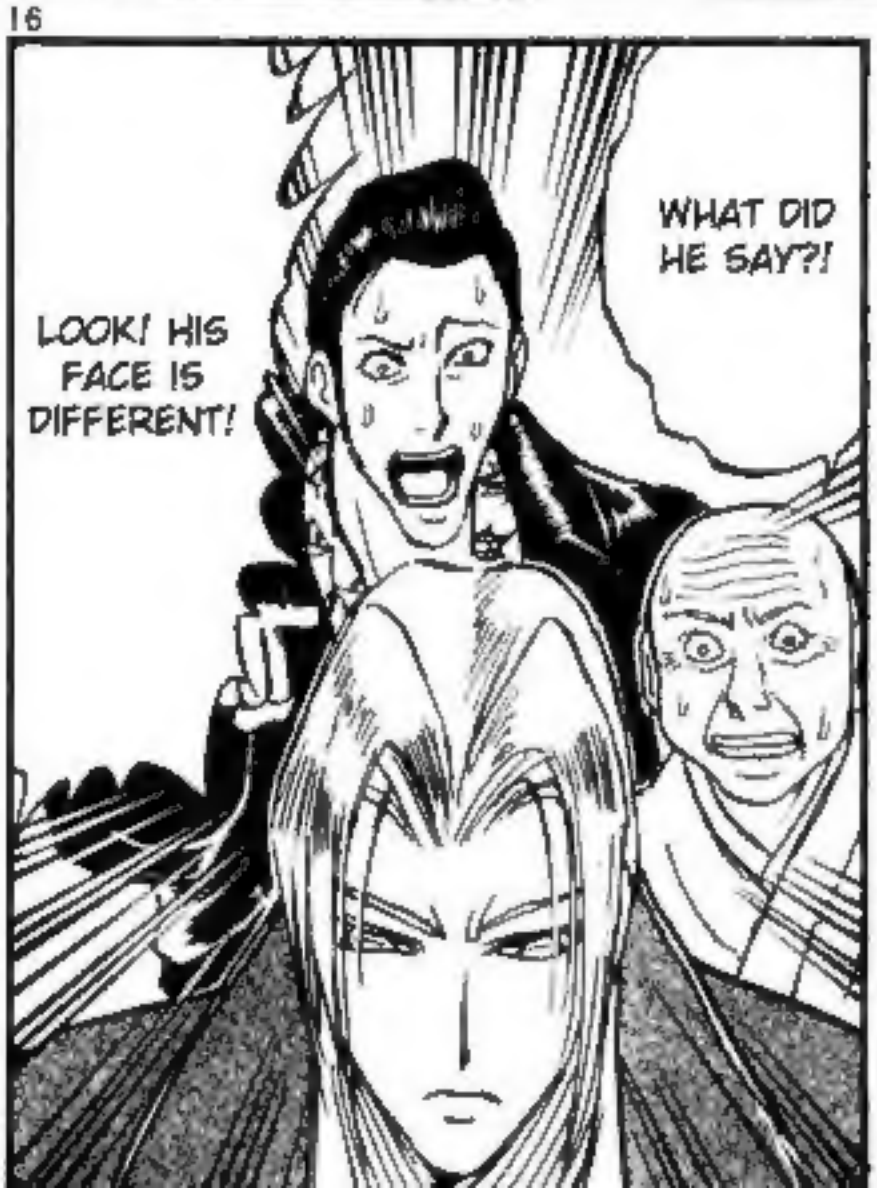
NOBODY WILL INTER-RUPT ME.

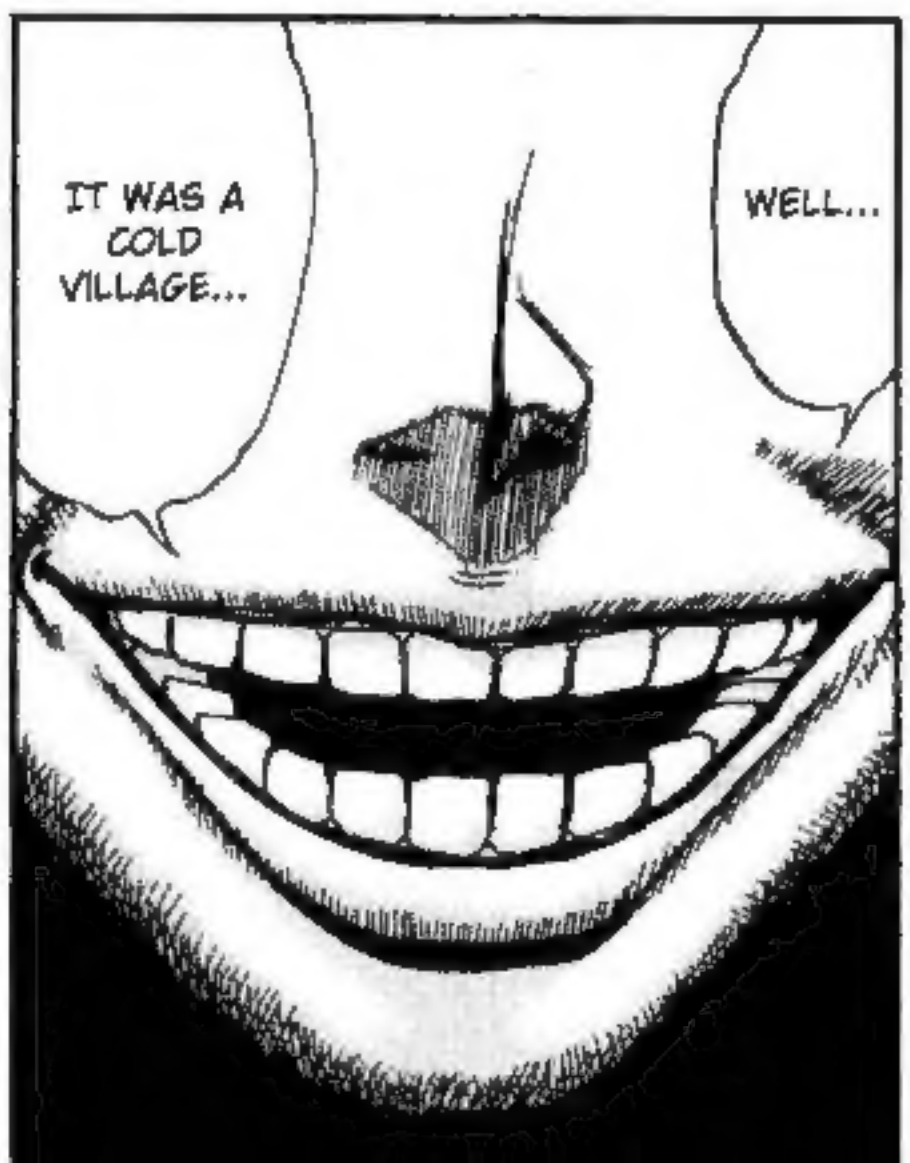
BONNE NUIT
(GOOD NIGHT)

HELP ME!!

NO!!

WHAT...


LOOK! HIS FACE IS DIFFERENT!
WHAT DID HE SAY?!


IT WAS A COLD VILLAGE...
WELL...

WE HAD FUN WHEN USING THE PUPPETS.

BUT... EVEN IN SUCH A SMALL VILLAGE THAT WAS ABOUT TO WITHER...

YES, YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO HOLD THEM

NO, YOU HAVE TO HOLD THE WIRES LIKE THAT.

OKAY.

LIKE THIS?

BIG BROTHER.

THANK YOU...

THOSE AREN'T DEAN'S MEMORIES. NEITHER SADAYOSHIS.

IT'S MIXED WITH CHINESE WORDS ...

NO.

HE'S RELIVING THEM BEFORE DYING?!

THESE ARE SADA-YOSHI'S MEMORIES, BUT...

HAHAHA! EXACTLY.

THESE ARE MEMORIES FROM 230 YEARS AGO ...

MY HEART BROKE.

IT WAS A SHORT TRIP, BUT...

AT THAT MOMENT, I WAS NO LONGER MYSELF... BUT SOMEONE I DON'T KNOW AND WHO HAD VERY DARK MEMORIES ...

Extra Notes

- SPECIAL THANKS TO KAIDU FOR HELPING WITH THIS CHAPTER QUALITY CHECK.